

What is claimed is:

1. A method of inter-operator handover in a mobile telecommunications network comprising a first operator of a first sub-network operated in a wideband code division multiplex access (WCDMA) mode having a plurality of first radio coverage areas, and a second operator of both a second sub-network and a third sub-network, wherein the second sub-network is operated in a radio frequency in accordance with the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) mode having a plurality of second radio coverage areas partly overlapping with the first radio coverage areas, and the third sub-network is operated in the WCDMA mode having a plurality of third radio coverage areas, and wherein the handover is performed for a mobile terminal of the first operator between the first and second operators when the mobile terminal is located in an overlapped section of the first coverage areas and the second coverage areas, said method comprising the steps of:

10 providing a first list of first radio coverage areas visible to the mobile terminal for allowing the mobile terminal to access the first radio coverage areas through the first sub-network when the mobile terminal moves into the first coverage areas; and

15 providing a second list of second radio coverage areas to the mobile terminal for allowing the mobile terminal to access the second coverage areas through the second sub-network when the mobile terminal is located in the second coverage areas beyond the first coverage areas.

20 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the second list is provided when the mobile terminal is operated in a connected mode.

25 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the second list is provided when the mobile terminal is operated in an idle mode.

30 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first list is provided by a radio network controller (RNC) of the first sub-network.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first list is provided by a base station controller (BSC) of the second sub-network.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second list is provided by a radio network controller (RNC) of the first sub-network.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the second list is provided by a base station controller (BSC) of the second sub-network.

10 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first operator has a plurality of further mobile terminals, and wherein the first list is specific to the mobile terminal of the first operator such that the first list is inaccessible to the further mobile terminals.

15 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the second operator has a plurality of further mobile terminals, and wherein the first list is specific to the mobile terminal of the first operator such that the first list is inaccessible to the further mobile terminals.

20 10. A system for inter-operator handover in a mobile telecommunications network comprising a first operator of a first sub-network operated in a wideband code division multiplex access (WCDMA) mode having a plurality of first radio coverage areas, and a second operator of both a second sub-network and a third sub-network, wherein the second sub-network is operated in a radio frequency in accordance with the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) mode having a plurality of second radio coverage areas partly overlapping with the first radio coverage areas, and the third sub-network is operated 25 in the WCDMA mode having a plurality of third radio coverage areas, and wherein the handover is performed for a mobile terminal of the first operator between the first and the second operators when the mobile terminal is located in an overlapped section of the first coverage areas and the second coverage areas, said system comprising:

30 a first means, for providing a first list of first radio coverage areas visible to the mobile terminal for allowing the mobile terminal to access the first radio coverage areas

through the first sub-network when the mobile terminal moves into the first coverage areas;
and

a second means, for providing a second list of second radio coverage areas to the
mobile terminal for allowing the mobile terminal to access the second coverage areas through
the second sub-network when the mobile terminal is located in the second coverage areas
beyond the first coverage areas.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the second list is provided when the mobile terminal
is operated in a connected mode.

10 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the second list is provided when the mobile terminal
is operated in an idle mode.

15 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the first means is located in a radio network
controller (RNC) of the first sub-network.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein the first list is provided by a base station controller
(BSC) of the second sub-network.

20 15. The system of claim 10, wherein the second list is provided by a radio network
controller (RNC) of the first sub-network.

16. The system of claim 10, wherein the second list is provided by a base station
controller (BSC) of the second sub-network.

25 17. The system of claim 10, wherein the first operator has a plurality of further mobile
terminals, and wherein the first list is specific to the mobile terminal of the first operator such
that the first list is inaccessible to the further mobile terminals.

18. The system of claim 10, wherein the second operator has a plurality of further mobile terminals, and wherein the first list is specific to the mobile terminal of the first operator such that the first list is inaccessible to the further mobile terminals.

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